

Kaziranga National Park

460. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news regarding foreign donations for Kaziranga National Park amounting to Rs. 3.82 lakh to be used for the betterment of living conditions of captured elephants and some forests guards but misused by forest officials;

(b) if so, whether the Government have tried to unearth the truth of the whole thing;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, the Chief Wildlife Warden of Assam has informed that foreign donation for Kaziranga National Park was not misused as alleged. The donation was received in two instalments and the first instalment of Rs. 1.75 lakhs was utilized for elephant feed, payment of outstanding dues for P.O.L. for anti-poaching vehicles and purchase of tyres and tubes for truck used in anti-poaching work. The second instalment of Rs. 2.80 lakhs is being utilized for purpose of boots, jersey etc. for the staff.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Foreign Tours by KRIBHCO officials

461. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the total expenditure incurred by the KRIBHCO officials on the foreign tours under the India-Oman project;

(b) whether this tour was absolutely; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (c) In connection with the Oman India Fertilizer Project, KRIBHCO has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 3.52 crore approximately on foreign tours of its officials from March 1993 to December 1996. These foreign tours were essential because of the need for intensive interaction with the joint venture partners, technical consultants, financial advisers and project contractors, who are all located outside India. The meetings of the Joint Management Committee of the project are also generally held outside India.

Closed Sugar Mills

462. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sugar mills in large number are lying closed in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the loss of production capacity as a result of closure of these sugar mills;

(c) whether the Government have taken action to revive these sugar mills; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) (a) As on 18.2.1997 during the current sugar season 1996-97, there were three sugar mills lying closed in Uttar Pradesh viz. Anandnagar, Gauribazar and Nandganj.

(b) The loss in terms of annual installed sugar production capacity, as a result of closure of these sugar mills is 0.43 lakh tonnes.

(c) and (d) Sugar Mills have themselves to prepare schemes for rehabilitation/modernisation and get them approved by the financial institutions. Financial assistance is also available from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rates of interest for such rehabilitation/modernisation schemes, subject to fulfilment of the condition laid down.

[English]

Pollution in Ganga

463. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that in spite of all their efforts and extensive publicity through the mass-media and other extension methods the dead bodies, half burnt bodies are still floating in the river (Ganga), small unrecorded industrial units of Kanpur dumping their wastes in the river and city's dirty nallas diverted into it; and

(b) if so, the efforts proposed to be made to keep Ganga completely safe from pollution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) To minimise the incidents of disposal of dead/half burnt bodies into the Ganga, 28 schemes of electric crematorium have been sanctioned in 25 large towns along the river in U.P., Bihar and West Bengal. However, most of these crematoria have not been fully utilised due to the non-availability of uninterrupted power supply. The concerned State Governments have been told from time to time to ensure uninterrupted power supply to these crematoria. Industrial effluents from a cluster of 175 small tanneries at Jajmau, Kanpur are treated in a common effluent treatment plant before it is sent for irrigation. Nearly 130 million liters per day of municipal sewage is intercepted and diverted from 16 drains for sewage farming at Kanpur. The remaining sewage presently reaching the Ganga from one of the major drains

will be diverted for treatment under the second phase of Ganga Action Plan.

Smuggling of Timber in J & K

464. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :
SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) deployed in Jammu and Kashmir are indulging in smuggling of timber from the State and are using official vehicles for this purpose;

(b) whether the Forest Department of the State has sought permission to check the vehicles of CRPF and the Army convoys passing through the check posts;

(c) whether the State Forest Department has seized some timber from a CRPF vehicle sometime back;

(d) whether staff of the State Forest Department have already started checking up the vehicle of CRPF in spite of the latter's unwillingness;

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the measures proposed to stop smuggling by CRPF personnel ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (f) CRPF have reported two incidents where their vehicles carrying timber were intercepted by the Forest Department Officials. These vehicles were released on production of documents. The involvement of CRPF officers in transporting timber in Government vehicles is being inquired into separately.

Although no specific permission is reported to have been sought for checking of CRPF vehicles, the Forest Department Officials are already checking vehicles of all security Forces including CRPF. The Government have no objection to such checking. CRPF has also set up a check post at Udhampur to keep a check on such activities.

Increase in Sugar Price

465. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :
SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR :
SHRI MODHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAM DAS PATEL :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have increased the issue price of sugar being sold under the PDs;

(b) the reasons for the increase in price especially when sugar stocks are abounding with high production of sugar in last season;

(c) whether the State Government have been consulted before effecting the price rise;

(d) if not, whether some State Government have represented for maintenance of the earlier price; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the weaker sections of the society are not hit by the price hike in sugar ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) The Government of India have decided to fix the retail issue price of sugar to be distributed through the Public Distribution System at Rs. 10.50 per kg., w.e.f. 10.2.1997 for reducing the element of subsidy in the distribution of sugar through Public Distribution System. The retail issue price is *inter-alia* determined on the basis of the statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane. The increase in the retail issue price was necessitated due to the increases in the Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane from sugar season 1994-95 onwards, which is determined after consulting the State Governments. The retail issue price of sugar distributed through Public Distribution System is presently subsidised by the Central Government to ensure the availability of sugar to consumers at an affordable price.

[Translation]

Assistance to Voluntary Organisation

466. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some voluntary organisations in Madhya Pradesh are being provided grants-in-aid by the Central Government for the protection of environment;

(b) if so, the names of these organisations indicating the year from which there are being provided grant-in-aid alongwith break up of last three years year-wise;

(c) whether the Government monitor the works executed by them with the funds provided to them under such grants-in-aid; and

(d) if so, the details of the monitoring process ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Smuggling of Bark of Tree

467. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Wanted'. A security